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6 December 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES

Mr. Wayne Brobeck, of the staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, called concerning the recent story in the papers of shipments of uranium and uranium extracts, as reported by Capt. George Racey Jordan. Capt. Jordan was at that time (noon, 5 December) testifying before the House Un-American Activities Committee, and Senator McMahon was preparing a full investigation by the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

Specifically, the Joint Committee wanted records, correspondence, or other documents concerning a request by Chemtorg about April 1943 for a shipment of 25 pounds of uranium metal, 200 pounds of uranium oxide, and 200 pounds of uranium nitrate. Since Chemtorg was a purchasing agent for the Russian Government, clearance was reported to have been obtained from Maj. Gen. Wesson of Lend Lease about November 1943, and there was reported to be correspondence between General Groves and General Wesson concerning the order. The actual order was reported to have gone to Shattuck Chemical Company of Denver and the products shipped to Great Falls, Montana.

25X1 I talked to [redacted] who stated that we might have some statistics concerning the original order, but doubted if we had any detailed record of the actual shipments. His recollection was that the shipment records would be in the New York office of AEC, and that the shipment he knew of was of 25 pounds of uranium metal, for which clearance was given by a War Production Board memo to Lt. Burman, an assistant to General Groves in the New York office. He recalled that the shipment went directly to the Soviet Embassy, and was sent by them to Minneapolis in February 1945.

I called Mr. Brobeck to report that we probably would not have much that would be helpful, although we would comb all our records, and suggested the New York office as a possibility given me unofficially. They had not approached the New York office, and he was grateful for the suggestion and agreed that we should not be quoted.

A letter from Senator McMahon is expected momentarily.

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Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

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